

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED WEEKLY BY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Gall of Bitterness.

From the Tribune. Of all the Rebel commanders, as our readers already know, not one fought more valiantly, not one more dexterously, than General James Longstreet. Having thus fought, and having given the Confederacy the benefit of his blood, one would think his opinions of the present situation entitled to some respect. He frankly says—"It is our duty to abandon ideas that are obsolete, and conform to the requirements of the law."

more careful thought than the columns of a newspaper usually receive. Of course, as a matter of news, nothing could be more interesting to those who watch the ever-changing hues of political discussion. A minute report of all sayings and doings in Cabinet would be always attractive, and might occasionally serve to prevent misapprehensions as to the course of the President and the views of his Secretaries. But would not the practice necessitate a radical change in the American mind concerning the functions of the members of the Cabinet, and the duties and responsibilities of heads of the Departments? Would it not be an innovation upon the usages and the constitutional limitations which have hitherto governed the proceedings of the President and defined the position of the officers who have come to be regarded as his advisers?

The popular idea centres all Executive responsibility in the President. He alone is held to determine his course, and be accountable for the policy he pursues. The Secretaries who conduct the affairs of the Departments are understood to act as his advisers, but in that capacity they have no recognized accountability. They are the assistants of the constitutional Executive, whose opinions impose no obligation upon him, and whose Cabinet relations are in a certain sense extra-official and irresponsible, except as between themselves and the President. Mr. Johnson, if we mistake not, has maintained this view. He has affirmed his undivided responsibility as the head of the Administration. And the Cabinet officers as matters which, on the ground of courtesy, should be left to his free choice.

Reopening of the Revolutionary Contest in Congress—The President's Policy.

The course pursued by President Johnson and his Administration renders it very clear that they are prepared to renew their unseemly fight with Congress, and to carry it on with increased venom and vindictiveness. This conflict between the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government has been going on for the past two years, to the damage of the country at home and its degradation abroad. It was suspended by the peaceable and effective working of the Reconstruction law under the influence of General Grant, and the prevailing hope and belief were that it had come to an end, and that Congress having adjourned and gone home without adopting confiscation or impeachment, or any of the ultra measures of the extreme radicals, President Johnson would faithfully carry out the law as so clearly defined in his veto messages. But the suspension of hostilities was only temporary. The restless factions could not remain at peace any more than the Girondists and Jacobins of France could fraternize after the beheading of Louis XVI. Each had ulterior views which would not be promoted by the pacification of the country under a law satisfactory to the people. The radicals sent their missionaries to the Rebel States to stir up mischief and obstruct the peaceful progress of reconstruction, by building up a negro party at the South. The Johnson Copperheads have taken a bolder and more dangerous course, and in the absence of Congress have attempted to strike down the law by paralyzing the arms of those who are engaged in carrying it into effect.

This willful and wicked interference with the operation of a law which was quietly, surely, and satisfactorily working out the ends for which it was enacted, will surely plunge the country into more turmoil and confusion than it has witnessed since the suppression of the Rebellion. It will compel the assembling of Congress for a July session, and will open up a multitude of questions, personal and political, which will serve to paralyze business, reawaken forgotten animosities, rekindle the smouldering ashes of sectional strife, and keep the whole nation in a state of excitement and suspense. Extreme men will call for the impeachment and removal of the President, and, laying his sins at the doors of the Southern people, will press with renewed energy their demands for punishment and confiscation. The most moderate will insist upon the enforcement of the laws of the United States. The President and his advisers have calculated upon this condition of affairs, and are prepared for it. It is their plan for the prosecution of the next Presidential campaign. They have all along been seeking to make capital by charging the Republicans of Congress with an intention to keep open the question of reconstruction, and not to admit the Southern States to representation in Congress at all until after the next Presidential election. When the Reconstruction act was passed, they advised the South not to organize their States under its provisions, because Congress would surely reject them after they had submitted to the degradation of the law. They believe now that they have placed matters in a shape to enable them to appeal to the North in the next Presidential contest with more prospect of success than they would find in a restored and prosperous Union. They calculate that the people will be tired out by this long prostration of the work of reconstruction; that the acts of the Military Commanders of the Southern Districts, however legal and necessary, are so repugnant to all our preconceived ideas of a republican form of government that they cannot fail to affect the minds of many Northern men; and they trust in the rashness of the extreme radicals in Congress, during a heated summer session, to propose acts of general confiscation and other oppressive measures which may serve to startle and alarm the more moderate and reasonable portion of the community. All these exciting and dangerous elements they desire to drag together and cast into the approaching Presidential election, in the desperate hope that in the reign of anarchy and terror thus inaugurated they may manage to seize upon the Government. Even the martyrdom of an impeachment is looked to as holding out promise for

the future. It is with this object in view that the recent proceedings of the Cabinet were made public, and that President Johnson, with his henchman, Seward, has started on another speech-making pilgrimage in the North, and is once more seen "swinging round the circle" as of old. There is one difficulty in the way of his scheme, and it lies in the bold and spirited conduct of General Sickles, who resigns his military command in South Carolina and demands an inquiry into his official acts. This is likely to interfere seriously with the programme; for it will precipitate the issue before the President and his friends desire to meet it. It was their design to bring it on in the confusion and heat of a Presidential contest, and to throw the responsibility of decisive action upon Congress; but General Sickles, as usual, forces the fighting and put his enemies on their defense. General Sickles is a lawyer as well as a soldier. When the Reconstruction act first went into operation he thoroughly understood the powers it conferred upon the Military Commanders, and issued an order allowing the existing State officers to continue in the discharge of their duties. This settled the question of his authority over them as he understood the law, and, although he could have removed four-fifths of their number, from Governor down to magistrates, for disqualification under the sixth section of the Reconstruction act, he displaced but a few, and those only when they evinced a disposition to obstruct the work of reconstruction. He has acted as promptly and decisively now that he is interfered with by the President and his Cabinet as when he was molested by the unconstructed Rebel officeholders of South Carolina, and the bold position he has taken will force some definite action on President Johnson which will be likely to upset all his well-considered schemes.

That Congress will hold a session in July is now certain. That the indecent fight between the two highest branches of the Government will be renewed with increased ferocity, is rendered equally sure by the course of the President and his Cabinet. Whether the result will be the immediate impeachment and removal of the President, or whether more moderate counsels will prevail, and Congress will content itself with passing a supplementary act repealing all doubtful clauses of the Reconstruction law, making their meaning so plain as to leave no room for the quibblings of the Attorney-General or the evasions of the President, and confirming all the acts of the military commanders, remains to be seen. However this may be, the contest thus needlessly renewed will be productive of nothing but increased suffering to the South and damage to the whole country, while, as has been shown, the action of General Sickles is very likely to defeat the real object of the President and his party, which is to throw all this turmoil, confusion, fighting, and bad blood into the approaching Presidential contest.

The Indian War.

The wrath of a savage American Indian is such a very terrible thing that the hardiest settlers in the far West hesitate to provoke it, and are not ashamed to appease it in all honorable and consistent ways. But there is a power, overshadowing the will and the interests of all the inhabitants of the land, which has accounted it better that whole tribes of Indians should be irritated to blood-thirsty desperation rather than that the pockets of one Government agent should go unfilled. That desperation has been increasing for months. It is now generally aroused among all the hostile and most of the heretofore friendly tribes in the Western Territories, and although it was lately declared and published by a prominent General that we could "either have an Indian war or not, as we chose," it has since been privately stated by an officer even more distinguished that an Indian war has in fact progressed so far and assumed such magnitude that nothing but the force of arms can stop it. All the accounts from the plains are to the same effect. Aside from the exaggerated newspaper reports which are almost daily received, we have a great deal of testimony similar to that contained in the following despatch to the President, signed by A. C. Hunt, Governor of Colorado, and the Superintendent of the United States Branch Mint, George W. Lane:

"We are menaced by hostile Indians, our lines of communication cut off, the United States mails captured, coaches and stations destroyed, and the occupants murdered, private trains burned and the men murdered and scalped. The arts of peace are abandoned, and the people suffering from a feeling of insecurity which paralyzes every branch of industry, and all from a foe the lives of the whole of which are at stake, and the authority of the United States worthless compared with that of one American citizen. This we have suffered, more or less, since the same day and at the same place or relief has been afforded us, in the name of God and humanity we make this appeal to you, and ask that the too-long-continued course of inaction and delay, and the incessant devilish chase, and that you will at once direct that prompt and decisive measures be taken for the protection of the country."

Colorado is only a small section of that vast area of 1,825,252 square miles, west of the Mississippi, and yet greater by 762,529 square miles than the whole more densely populated eastern country between the line of the Missouri and the Atlantic Ocean—which is thus fiercely afflicted. A white population of more than two millions of souls, distributed throughout the territory in cities, settlements, mining villages, and towns, are also threatened. The telegraph lines are being torn down, ranches are attacked and burned, the building parties of the Pacific Railroad are forced to defend themselves as they advance, and the overland stage route is so haunted by "demons of a dull red," that passengers from the Western coast are turning backward to escape the strokes of tomahawks and blades of scalping-knives.

Yet the Government, which was prevented last February by Congress from acceding to the request of General Grant to place the whole matter of dealing with Indians in the hands of the military, does not appear to have decided upon what policy to pursue at the present critical juncture. The late pop-woof of General Hancock with some of the Indian chiefs resulted in nothing except promises in behalf of a few tribes. General Oster, who set out to "chastise" certain other tribes who were too fully and implacably bent upon the course of "making any promises whatever, has it is now rumored in a telegram from Junction City, Kansas—"been repulsed by Indians who came down in force from the Platte Valley." If this military expedition has proved to be so inadequate, a larger force and more vigorous measures will doubtless be resorted to; for the appeals of the Territorial officials and of those in charge of enormous mining and other interests in the region endangered cannot long be denied. To quell this, by arms, the wild spirit of vengeance with which it appears that no stable compromise is possible, is a very different task from that which it has long been in the power of the Government to perform.

The tales told of some English missionaries in the South Pacific, who sold their souls for themselves, and sold the goods sent them for charitable distribution among ignorant negroes, have been hard to believe. But the bold, open, shameful swindles which have been perpetrated upon the Western Indians by Government commissioners have been exposed and proved. These men have for years been selling to traders and settlers, who in turn sold them to the Indians, whole-train-loads of goods detached for gratuitous distribution among the tribes, in fulfillment of our treaty stipulations with them. Officers of the highest rank and of undoubted veracity testify to these things, and also to the fact that in many instances the Indians who presented themselves to receive the allowances due to their tribes were made drunk with whisky, and induced, while in that condition, to receipt for articles which they never saw. One chief told one of our Generals who took pains to see that a more recent consignment of goods was properly made over to the tribe for which it was forwarded, that it was the first time in eighteen years that he or his tribe had been so fortunate. Satauta's allegations in presence of General Hancock and the very agent he accused, were not sought to be questioned; but the forbearance manifested by Satauta has ceased to be the virtue of those more barbaric and daring warriors who are now striving to drive the "white man" who won their hatred through the dishonesty of his official agent, from the soil that the latter polluted with practices even more detestable than their own. The Congress and the Department that winked at these atrocious wrongs, for the sake of keeping in pay, and preserving the "influence" of the wretched pot-house politicians and their friends who wrought them and who shared the spoil, have brought on a conflict that is destined to cost the country an increase of debt and taxation very mildly foreshadowed by Secretary McCulloch in his letter to the Boston merchants. The Secretary of the Interior, in his last report, estimated the price of maintaining each regiment of troops in the Indian country at \$2,000,000 per annum, and this in a time of comparative peace. Every savage killed in battle during the last five years has probably cost the Government \$200,000. It is also well to remember that there may be a great many homeless and foodless whites in the Western Territories to be cared for, before this war is finished. In the months of September and October, the massacres in Minnesota reduced twenty thousand of those who escaped to want. These military expenditures and the cost of providing for these prospective starving citizens, added to the expenses of reconstruction under the Military bill, and the sum now habitually raised in the country for the relief of the sufferers in the South, are submitted to the reflection of those humble millions who are out of the charmed ring that encloses politicians, contractors, internal revenue men, and general jobbers, and who, until the autumn of 1865, will have to bide their time.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING.—JOY, COE & CO. Agents for the "TELEGRAPH" and Newspaper Press of the whole country, have REMOVED from FIFTH and CHESTNUT STREETS, No. 14 S. SIXTH Street, second door above WALNUT. OFFICE—No. 14 S. SIXTH Street, PHILADELPHIA. TRIBUNE BUILDINGS, New York. 7304p

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION. HARRISBURG, April 18, 1867.—The "Republican Convention" of the State of Pennsylvania, held in Harrisburg on WEDNESDAY, the 18th day of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M., to nominate a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, and to initiate proper measures for the ensuing State convocation. The following gentlemen were chosen as members of the Executive and Senatorial Delegates, chosen in the usual way, and equal in number to the whole of the Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly. By order of the State Central Committee. GEORGE W. HARRISBURG, Secretary. 520 511

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, June 20, 1867. A meeting of the stockholders of the LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY, held at 10 o'clock A. M., on the 20th day of July, next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of considering an agreement for the consolidation and merger of the corporate rights, franchises, and property of the Nanticoke Railroad Company with and into the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, and also of electing a standing committee of the Lehigh and Delaware Water Gap Railroad Company into the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, and of determining by a vote of the stockholders, to be taken and there taken, in person or by proxy, for or against the adoption of the said agreement, and the acceptance of the said agreement, and the election of a standing committee of the said company. JAMES J. HARRIS, President. 521 511

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.—THE FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, May 28, 1867. A General Meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Philadelphia will be held at the BANKING HOUSE, on SALISBURY Street, the 28th day of June next, at twelve o'clock, noon, for the purpose of considering and deciding upon amendments of the Third and Fifth of the Articles of Association of the said Bank. By order of the Board of Directors. W. H. HARRIS, Jr., Cashier. 521 511

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS. Proposals will be received at this office, No. 23 S. SEVENTH Street, until noon of the 1st day of July, for the sale to the Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works of the stock in the Germantown, Richmond, Newburg, and Southwark and Moyamensing Gas Companies, to be used as investments in the business of said Companies. BENJAMIN S. RILEY, Cashier. 521 511

BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE.—THIS splendid dye is the best in the world. The only true and perfect Dye—Harmless, Reliable, Instantaneous. No disappointment. No ridiculous tints. Natural looking color. Remedies the ill effects of Bad Dye. Invigorates the hair, leaving it soft and beautiful. The genuine is signed WILLIAM A. BATCHELOR. All others are mere imitations and should be avoided. Sold by all Druggists and Perfumery Factories. No. 51 BARCLAY Street, New York. 521 511

UNITED STATES TREASURY.—PHILADELPHIA, June 20, 1867. NOTICE.—Holders of fifty or more Gold Coupons, issued by the Treasury Department, are invited to call at this office for examination and count. Checks will be ready on July 1. Assistant Treasurer. 521 511

MACHELON CEMETERY SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting of this Society will be held at the ground on TUESDAY EVENING, June 25, 1867, at 8 o'clock. By order of the Society. M. GRIGER, Secretary. 521 511

GEORGE W. FORD, DOCK STREET, PHILADELPHIA, has collected and sold for the Government, all claims against the Government. For a speedy settlement, call on Mr. F. W. who is well versed with all the details of the business. 521 511

GAS STOVES FOR COOKING AND HEATING BY GAS AND AIR COMBINED. THE JARI. The Best, the Cheapest, the Surest, the most Reliable the most easily cleaned, the self-sealing, self-adjusting, Flexible Cap. CARLISE JAR. 521 511

THE REPEATING LIGHT. PRICE, 25 CENTS. PATENT ICE CREAM FREEZERS. CHARLES BURNHAM & CO., No. 115 SOUTH TENTH STREET, 521 511

Old Rye Whiskies. THE LARGEST AND BEST STOCK OF FINE OLD RYE WHISKIES IN THE LAND IS NOW POSSESSED BY HENRY S. HANNIS & CO., Nos. 218 and 220 SOUTH FRONT STREET, WHO OFFER THE SAME TO THE TRADE, IN LOTS, ON VERY ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS. Their Stock of Rye Whiskies, in BOND, comprises all the favorite brands extant, and runs through the various months of 1865/66, and of this year, up to present date. Liberal contracts made for lots to arrive at Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, Erie Basin Line Wharf, or at Bonded Warehouses, as parties may elect.

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LEWIS LADOMUS & CO., Diamond Dealers and Jewellers, No. 502 CHESTNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA. Would invite the attention of purchasers to their large and handsome assortment of DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVER-WARE, ETC. ETC. ICE PITCHERS in great variety. A large assortment of small STUDES, for eyelet holes, just received. WATCHES repaired in the best manner, and guaranteed. 514 4p

FRENCH CLOCKS. G. RUSSELL & CO., No. 22 NORTH SIXTH STREET, Have just received per steamship Europe, an invoice of MANTLE CLOCKS, Purchased in Paris since the opening of the Exposition, which for beauty of design and workmanship, cannot be excelled, and they are offered at prices which invite competition. 520 511 JOHN BOWMAN, No. 704 ARCH Street, PHILADELPHIA. MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN SILVER AND PLATEDWARE. Our GOODS are decidedly the cheapest in the city for TRIPLE PLATE, & NO. 1. 511 511

W. W. CASSIDY, No. 19 SOUTH SECOND STREET, Offers an entirely new and most carefully selected stock of AMERICAN AND GENEVA WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVER-WARE, AND FANCY ARTICLES EVERY DESCRIPTION suitable for BRIDAL OR HOLIDAY PRESENTS. An examination will show my stock to be unsurpassed in quality and cheapness. Particular attention paid to repairing. 512 511

C. A. PEQUIGNOT, Manufacturers of Gold and Silver Watch Cases, And Wholesale Dealers in AMERICAN WATCH CO'S, HOWARD & CO'S, AND TREMONT AMERICAN WATCHES, No. 22 SOUTH FIFTH STREET. HENRY HARPER, No. 520 ARCH Street, Manufacturer and Dealer in WATCHES, FINE JEWELRY, SILVER-PLATED WARE, AND SOLID SILVER-WARE. 511 511

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Executive Authority.—The President and his Cabinet. From the Times. The record of proceedings in Cabinet council, published last Friday at the instance of official authority, must have surprised the reader by its novelty, if not by its suggestiveness. Reports of results arrived at in council, of incidents connected with them, and the respective relations of the Secretaries towards them, are common items of newspaper intelligence. But the public are wholly unaccustomed to the publication of detailed statements of opinions expressed, and votes given, in circumstances which have uniformly been considered confidential. Probably the first impression produced by the statement concerning the votes of the Cabinet officers on the Attorney-General's opinion is, that it originated in a desire on the part of the President to divide the responsibility of his action, by showing that his conclusions in some instances are identical with those of a majority of his Cabinet, and in others with their unanimous opinion, he may seem to fortify his position, and to divert some of the attacks which would otherwise be directed altogether against himself. This is the most ready, if not the most generous, explanation of a very singular proceeding. Thus considered, neither its propriety nor its expediency is likely to be conceded without